

Amendments to the Specification:

Applicants present replacement paragraphs below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

In the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8, with the following paragraph:

In U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/191,822, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,947,927 on September 20, 2005, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, the concept of SITs was introduced. A particular method of adapting a prior art query optimizer to access and utilize a preexisting set of SITs for cost estimation was described in detail in this application, which method is summarized here briefly as background information.

Type of Response: Amendment
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